

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON PASCAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hamilton Pascal for his accomplishments in the business world for which he has earned the Thomas R. Fortune Business Award.

Hamilton was born and raised in Trinidad where he attended public elementary school and later, Burke High School. After graduating from Burke High School, he went on to obtain his license in Electrical Installation from Victoria Institute.

In 1976, Hamilton came to the United States and settled in Brooklyn, New York. He decided that he wanted to further his education in building maintenance and repairs, obtaining his license as a real estate salesperson.

Wanting to become more involved in civic affairs and learn more about politics in the United States, Hamilton became a member of Unity Democratic Club in the early 1990's. By joining Unity Democratic Club, he became involved with the Men's Council and took an active role in several of the activities held by UDC.

For the future, Hamilton is planning to own a home improvement store along with his son Eric Pascal, who currently resides with him.

Mr. Speaker, Hamilton Pascal has shown to improve his business skills and has shown a genuine interest in becoming actively involved in his community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable individual.

FREEDOM FOR BERNARDO AREVALO PADRON

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of a Cuban speaker of conscience. I rise today in honor of Bernardo Arevalo Padron.

Mr. Arevalo Padron founded the Cuban independent news agency Linea Sur Press in October 1996 to condemn the atrocious human rights violations committed by Castro's tyrannical regime. Mr. Arevalo Padron's insistence on reporting about the deteriorating plight of the Cuban people under Castro's machinery of repression led directly to his arrest.

Bernardo Arevalo Padron was jailed for six years in November 1997 for "insulting" Fidel Castro and calling him a "liar" for not keeping his promises about democracy and so many other matters. Mr. Arevalo Padron was sentenced to six years behind bars because he dared to print the truth about a government that ruthlessly represses any kind of dissent.

After five years of sadistic cruelty in Castro's gulag, Mr. Arevalo Padron has been diagnosed with leptospirosis, which is spread by rats. According to a report issued by Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Arevalo Padron should have been freed on parole in October 2000, but the government refuses to release him because he has not cooperated in the so called re-education program.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Arevalo Padron has been slowly festering in Castro's inhumane dungeons since 1997 because he called Fidel Castro "a liar". Has ever a man been through so much for a single word of truth?

One of the key reasons why I bring the plight of Mr. Arevalo Padron to the attention of Congress is because there is no independent press in Cuba. None, Mr. Speaker.

Here in the United States we often say, "the truth will set you free"; in Castro's deplorable dictatorship the truth will set you in the gulag for six years. I implore my colleagues to stand for truth, democracy and decency and call with one voice for the instant release of Bernardo Arevalo Padron.

HONORING ROBERTA R. GOLDMAN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding individual, Roberta R. Goldman who will be receiving the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award from the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee.

Mrs. Goldman has worked for years to improve her community in many different ways. In 1982, she joined the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee, which she has served on ever since, and currently serves as chairperson of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Awards program and vice-chairperson of the town committee itself. In 1998 Mrs. Goldman was elected to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee, of which she is now an elected representative from the Second Worcester Senatorial District and a member of the State Committee's Rules Committee. During Michael Dukakis' term as Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Mrs. Goldman was Director of Education Reform in the Office of Educational Affairs. Her efforts helped to create the Education Reform Act of 1985, an act that she helped to pass when she was a representative of the Eleventh Worcester District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. As State Representative, she served on the committees on Education, Human Services and Elder Affairs.

Although Mrs. Goldman generally concentrates on helping Democratic candidates in Massachusetts, she has also ventured outside of the state frequently to campaign in New Hampshire as well as spending a summer in Texas, working for Ann Richards, who was running for Governor. Mrs. Goldman has also

worked in Wisconsin partaking in the Dukakis presidential campaign and has given much time to aid former President William Clinton in New Jersey.

In addition to Mrs. Goldman's many political endeavors, she is an enthusiastic teacher, working for the Shrewsbury school system since 1971. In 1987, Mrs. Goldman began working at Shrewsbury High School as a social studies teacher. In the early 1990's, Mrs. Goldman established the Political Action Group, a non-partisan organization at Shrewsbury High School, which has enhanced many students' interests in politics and current events.

Finally, her contributions to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities are significant. She is in her sixth term as President of the FOR Special Friends, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating my friend, Roberta Goldman.

A TRIBUTE TO HUGH ERROL BOSTON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hugh Errol Boston for his accomplishments in the business world for which he has received the Thomas R. Fortune Business Award.

Hugh was born to Mr. & Mrs. Samuel and Ruth Boston of Bush Lot, Essequibo, Guyana. Hugh, the fourth of seven children, immigrated to the United States of America in December 1974.

He attended the Anna Regina Primary School and then continued his education by attending Burnette High School. After graduation, Hugh Errol became a member of the Guyana Police Force, where he was employed for four years.

Throughout his years in America, Hugh worked in various enterprises including the construction industry. He also worked at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals as a Quality Control Inspector and a mailroom supervisor at Philip Holtzer and Associates. However, Hugh never lost sight of his goal to establish himself as an entrepreneur. He would eventually realize his goal, opening Boston Shipping Enterprises at 506 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, NY.

He is committed to giving back to the community and has followed his motto of "making a difference in anyone's life," to assist whenever possible. This is demonstrated by his numerous contributions to his community. He built a Church in honor of his mother at Bush Lot in Guyana where he sponsors a Vacation Bible School every summer, providing meals and organizing field trips. He also distributes toys to children at the community block party near his residence. Additionally, he offers part-time employment to youngsters who live within the vicinity of his business.

Hugh is married and is the proud father of four daughters.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, Hugh Errol Boston has achieved his life ambition in establishing his own business and has used his success to give back to his community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable individual.

TRIBUTE TO OYSTER BILINGUAL SCHOOL

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, as the Hispanic Heritage Celebration—2003 draws to a close, I rise to pay tribute to Oyster Bilingual Elementary School, a pearl right here in the Nation's Capital. For over 30 years, Oyster School has proudly served the Hispanic community in Washington, DC.

The Oyster School, named after former D.C. Public Schools Superintendent, James F. Oyster, first opened its doors in the 1920's.

By 1970, the Oyster School was home to many immigrant families from Central America who began to settle in the Adams Morgan neighborhood in the District of Columbia.

These new parents along with community activists pushed for the creation of a bilingual program, one that would best instruct their children, whose first language was Spanish.

In the spring of 1971, the D.C. Public School Board approved a two-way bilingual program at the Oyster School. From the beginning, the Oyster School program was a partnership effort.

In addition to support from D.C. Public Schools, Oyster Bilingual Elementary School received Federal funding and a grant from the Ford Foundation for teacher training, curriculum development, and program evaluation.

As a result, a generation before the "No Child Left Behind Act" weaved "scientifically-based research" into the education lexicon, Oyster School put into place a scientifically-based model for teaching children to achieve to high standards in two languages—Spanish and English.

At the Oyster Bilingual Elementary School, approximately half the students speak Spanish as their first language and half the students speak English.

Students come from diverse ethnic and socio-economic groups. This year, 35 percent of Oyster's students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. All students are expected to master the D.C. Public Schools content in both languages. Oyster students measure up and test well in both languages, consistently placing Oyster Bilingual Elementary School in the top ten of the over 100 elementary schools in the District of Columbia.

The Oyster Bilingual Elementary School is a model for the Nation. It has received numerous accolades, including a citation for excellence from the U.S. Department of Education and an Exemplary School Award from the National Association for Bilingual Education.

Perhaps a more significant measure of the value of the Oyster Bilingual Elementary School experience is the fact that until D.C. Public Schools introduced a lottery system for admission, hundreds of parents would camp out for days in order to get a coveted "first come, first serve" slot at the school.

Oyster Bilingual Elementary School has fostered a sense of community and shared values between the immigrant community and the largely upper-middle class residents of the Woodley Park neighborhood. When the school faced closure in the early 1990's because of its dilapidated facilities, the community rallied and formed the 21st century school fund.

Through this community-public-private partnership, the financing was made available to build the first new school building in the District of Columbia in 20 years—a beautiful new facility that will serve both the growing Hispanic community and the D.C. community at large.

Oyster Bilingual Elementary School's long-term success is a product of community involvement and public-private partnerships.

The school has produced many distinguished alumni who serve as role models and continue to serve the Hispanic community in our nation's capital. Among them are:

Mirna Amaya, a child development specialist who works at Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care in D.C.;

Nathaniel Beers, a doctor at Children's Hospital Medical Center;

Olga Artiga, a kindergarten teacher at Oyster. Her sister Connie Artiga Oliver runs the after-school care program at Oyster; and

Cecilia Arce, a library assistant and a parent of three children at Oyster.

As Oyster Bilingual Elementary School begins to serve a new generation of students I commend it for staying true to its mission, which states:

"We believe that native Spanish-speaking children will learn to perform better in English in an environment that respects their native language and provides continued growth in their native language. In addition, we believe that the education of English speaking children will be enriched by achieving competency in a second language at an age when achieving such competency is easiest."

Mr. Speaker, the administration at Oyster School is fulfilling this mission and I urge my colleagues in Congress to commend them for their efforts.

HONORING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. speaker, I rise today to belatedly mark the occasion of Taiwan's National Day, October 10, 2003. It nonetheless gives me great pleasure to report that Taiwan is a thriving democracy that guarantees and protects essential human rights of all its citizens.

Taiwan stands as a remarkable testament to what humankind is capable of when freedom and democracy combine to fuel the economic engine. Even with only 23 million citizens, Taiwan remains one of Asia's strongest economic "tigers". With the world's 17th largest economy and the world's 15th largest trade volume, Taiwan has made significant contributions to the global economy.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan remains a critical U.S. ally, and it is my hope that Taiwan will continue to serve as a beacon for freedom and democracy throughout East Asia.

Today I would like to extend my solidarity to the 23 million freedom loving citizens of Taiwan and their democratically elected leader, President Chen Shui-bian in commemoration of Taiwan's recent National Day of celebration.

A TRIBUTE TO ROY KING

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Roy King for his dedication to his community which has earned him the Thomas R. Fortune Exemplary Service Award.

Roy was born in Georgia and at the age of 6 months he and his family moved to Far Rockaway, NY, where he still resides.

Roy attended public elementary school and junior high schools and graduated from Far Rockaway High School. After high school, he attended Queens Borough Community College, receiving a degree in physical education.

As someone who loves to be around children, Roy applied for a position in security and was hired by the New York City Board of Education where he worked for several years. In 1977, Roy was hired as a counselor for the New York City Department of Social Services—Youth Division where he still works as a child care specialist at the Atlantic Diagnostic Center.

Roy was introduced to the Unity Democratic Club by J.J. Johnson, where he also is an active member of the Men's Council.

He has been a member of St. John Baptist Church in Rockaway Beach, NY for over 20 years where Elder J.D. Williams is the Pastor. He is a faithful member of the Usher Board and the Men's Ministry.

With his wife Anne, Roy has a beautiful home in Rockaway Beach, where they are raising three girls and two grandchildren. All his children and other children around him call him "Pa Pa". Roy feels blessed to have his mother and five siblings living in the Far Rockaway area as well.

Mr. Speaker, Roy King has shown that he is committed to his community through both his professional choices and participation in the Unity Democratic Club. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable individual.

URGING THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES TO HELP RESOLVE A LONG STANDING DISPUTE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Saudi Ambassador to the United States to help resolve a long standing dispute between another Saudi Prince—a cousin to the Ambassador—and a resident in my home state.

Nearly 20 years ago, Prince Abdul Aziz, son of Prince Salman, the current Governor of Riyadh, borrowed \$1.7 million from Bob Burch in Colorado.